latiora quàm alta; quartum hexagonum, posticè sinuatum, subcarinatum; quintum irregularitèr pentagonum, carinatum: *costalia* declivia; quorum primum et quartum trapezoidea, secundum et tertium quadrata, quartum omnium minimum: *marginalia* lævia, quadrata, margine extremo paulò replicato: *scutum nuchale* quadratum, anticè angustatum. *Sternum* planum, ad latera rotundato-subcarinatum, anticè truncatum, posticè trigono-emarginatum; nigricans, vel olivaceum, flavo plùs minùs variegatum: *scuta gularia* triangularia; *humeralia* trapezoidea, intùs angustiora; *pectoralia* et *abdominalia* quadrata; *femoralia* trapezoidea; *analia* rhomboidea.

Testæ osseæ mensura.

	unc.	lin.
Longitudo dorsi	5	5
Latitudo ejusdem	4	0
Longitudo sterni	5	2
Altitudo	2	0

The want of a proper appretiation of the characters of the Testudinata has in no instance been more strikingly shown, or led to greater confusion and difficulty, than in the case of the present species. From the time of Linnæus until the present hour, this doubt and confusion have continued to perplex naturalists. The common freshwater Tortoise of Europe, described by Lacépède, from different ages and varieties, under the names of "la jaune," "la ronde," "la bourbeuse," is, in fact, *Terrapene europæa*, the structure of which, as a Box Tortoise, I demonstrated in the second volume of the Zoological Journal. These three designations of Lacépède were, it appears, a sufficient authority to lead many subsequent writers to describe these different varieties or ages of the species in question as distinct, retaining the names of *europæa* and *lutaria*. On a careful examination of Lacépède's descriptions, however, I thought I could here and there discover some traces of a different species; and his figure of "la bourbeuse" in the original edition of his great work, appears to me certainly to have been taken from an individual of that now under consideration, and for which I have retained the name of *lutaria*,

although the description is generally that of *Terrapene europæa**. The three descriptions of this author, however, are, with the slight and doubtful exceptions I have just alluded to, referrible to the latter animal; and had it not been for the figure I have mentioned, I should not have thought myself justified in retaining the name of *lutaria*.

Mr. Gray, appretiating the difficulties with which the subject was obscured, cut the knot instead of untying it, and named the species "*Emys vulgaris*, Common Terrapin,"—a term which could only have been assigned to it from his having "seen more than twenty living," for it certainly is not more numerous than many other species of the genus.

The figure and description of *Emys caspica* given by the traveller Gmelin, which Wagler calls "Descript. et icon pessim." and afterwards "Icon miserabillima," must have been—for I have not seen them—insufficient to have realized the identity of that species with the one now under consideration. A good figure and an excellent description of *Emys caspica*, given by Wagler in the second fasciculus of his "Descriptiones et Icones Amphibiorum," enable me, however, now decidedly to conclude that this also must be considered as a synonym of my present species: and this view is confirmed by the examination of a specimen of *Emys caspica* in the British Museum, authenticated, if I mistake not, by its undoubted habitat.

Upon the whole, then, I have come to the conclusion that Lacépède's figure of "la bourbeuse" indicates the present species, on which ground I have retained the name of *E. lutaria*, and that it is identical with *E. caspica* of Gmelin and Schweigger.

The best description which has hitherto appeared of it is that of Wagler, to which I have before alluded; and his account of its localities, as well as of its habits, is so terse and satisfactory, that I cannot do better than give it in his own words.

"Habitat ad mare Caspicum ac in Dalmatia, prope Ragusam, in Sylva Val di Umbla dicta, montibus altis adumbrata ac vegetationis mira pulchritudine, ficis, cypressis, palmisque luxuriante. In medio vallis fons paludem parvam

* This is not a solitary instance of a discrepancy between the figures and descriptions in the Work of Lacépède; his description professing to belong to *Testudo geometrica* being taken from a specimen of *T. actinodes*, whilst the figure is a correct one of the species named.